

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In the Office Action, the Examiner notes that claims 33 and 34 are pending in the application, and that claims 33 and 34 are rejected. By this Amendment, no claims have been added, amended, or canceled. Thus, claims 33 and 34 remain pending in the application. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application.

SPECIFICATION INFORMALITIES

In response to the Examiner's objection to the specification for not specifically identifying the continuing data concerning related applications, Applicants have amended the specification accordingly.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 33 and 34 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 11, and 14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,501,724. Accompanying this Amendment is a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(b) and (c) to overcome this rejection.

Claims 33 and 34 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,700,858. Accompanying this Amendment is a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(b) and (c) to overcome this rejection.

Accordingly, it is believed that both obviousness-type double patenting rejections have been overcome. Reconsideration of the rejections and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,034 to Gelbart ("Gelbart").

The filing date of Gelbart is 9 December 1996. However, as identified in the Related Applications section of the specification, as amended herewith, the instant application has an effective filing date of 10 May 1993. Accordingly, Gelbart cannot properly be applied as an anticipatory reference to the instant application.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of claims 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) has been overcome. Reconsideration of the rejection and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the present Amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are accordingly respectfully requested.

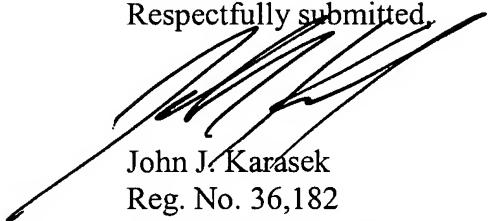
In the event that there are any questions relating to this amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the preparing attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 50-0281.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to deposit account no. 50-0281.

Respectfully submitted,



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